

# The Bethel Courier.

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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*Dr. Moses Mason House, ca. 1930s*

## THE BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE DR. MOSES MASON HOUSE: THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

1994 marks the 20th anniversary of the Society's acquisition of the Dr. Moses Mason House. Some of the highlights of the past two decades are listed below:

1972 – Dr. Moses Mason House placed on the National Register of Historic Places

1972-73 – Dr. Moses Mason House restored by the William Bingham II Trust for Charity

1974 – Dr. Moses Mason House given to the Society, dedicated, furnished and opened to the public  
Publication of booklet "Dr. Moses Mason and his House"  
Special Edition of the Bethel *Citizen* published in honor of the dedication of the Dr. Moses Mason House and the bicentenary of the settlement of Bethel

1975 – First annual Heritage Day held  
"Family Farm" exhibit and booklet published with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities  
Microfilming of old newspapers project begun with the support of the Maine State Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Eva Bean Research Room constructed with funds from the William Bingham II Trust for Charity  
Society awarded Certificate of Commendation by the American Association for State and Local History for "an effective program of preservation, publications, and education"

1976 – Society sponsors "Old Fashioned Fourth" in honor of nation's bicentennial observance

*The Bethel Courier*, Society quarterly founded  
Society hosts Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums annual meeting

Eva Bean Research Room dedicated during tenth anniversary festivities

Historic marker system initiated, first one placed at Bartlett Cemetery

Annual professional audit system established  
"Made in Bethel" booklet published

1977 – Society offers courses in history, genealogy and crafts for the first time

Society hosts volunteer workshop sponsored by the American Association of Museums

First Dr. Moses Mason Award given for best student historical essay

Broad Street named to the National Register  
"Bethel's Broad Street" booklet published

1978 – Constitution revised to add trustees and define other positions

Broad Street Historic District dedicated by Senator Edmund S. Muskie

Society receives news of endowment of \$250,000 from William Bingham II Trust for Charity to be received over the next five years

1979 – Society cookbook published

Annual endowment campaign begun

Historical Society calendar available for the first time

1980 – Society sponsors Oxford County Historic Resource Survey with grant from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission

First "Sudbury Canada Days" held

A. D. Shattuck's "Sunset at Bethel" on exhibit, loaned by Vassar College

Society Director attends Seminar for Historical Administration at Colonial Williamsburg

Society membership hits 400 level for first time

Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show established

Dr. Moses Mason Birthday party held for first time

Summer house moved to the Society grounds

1981 – First film series held with the support of the Maine Humanities Council

(continued on page 2)

Lapham's *History of Bethel* reprinted  
Indian Raid '81 bicentennial and Indian Raid special edition published  
New editions of "Molly Ockett" and "Dr. Moses Mason and his House" published  
Summer house stationery offered for the first time

1982 – Gift of Twitchell folk art portraits to the Society  
Adoption of personnel, accession and de-accession policies  
Museum Assessment Program grant  
Gift of R. P. Tolman's portrait of Dr. Moses Mason

1983 – Society loans Dr. Mason portrait and other artifacts to the Maine at Statehood exhibit at Bowdoin College, Colby College and other locations throughout the State  
Society membership passes 500 level

1984 – "Grass Roots" history course offered to Telstar High School students for first time  
1880 Atlas maps of Bethel reprinted  
"Adams Chronicles" film series  
Twitchell Portraits exhibit  
Martha Fifield Wilkins exhibit

1985 – Publication of Thomas C. Hubka's BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE, BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND which includes several Bethel Historical Society photographs  
Museum Assessment Grant II awarded  
Publication of Chester Harding catalog by the National Portrait Gallery containing photographs of the Mason portraits  
"Maine at Statehood" exhibit  
Conference on Rural Reform hosted by the Society  
"A Good Stand of Buildings" exhibit  
"Early Peoples of Northern Maine" exhibit  
"William Rogers Chapman, 1855-1935" exhibit  
Society membership tops 600

1986 – Publication of a new and expanded edition of Eva Bean's EAST BETHEL ROAD  
Long-Range Planning Committee formed  
New railroad stationery offered for first time  
New Society brochure published  
Second imprint of Lapham's HISTORY OF BETHEL  
Eight honorary members added to Society rolls

1987 – Bequest received to establish Austin F. Twitchell Fund to benefit collections  
Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award established; Floribel Haines, first recipient  
Publication by the Society of OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE: A GUIDE TO ITS HISTORIC RESOURCES by Society curator Randall H. Bennett  
Society sponsors oral history workshop with Northeast Folklore Archives of the University of Maine  
Society receives Harry W. Rowe Award from Maine League of Historical Societies and Museums for "an outstanding contribution to state and local history"  
Society receives a Preservation Award from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
Society membership tops 700

1988 – Fifty years of the Norway ADVERTISER-DEMOC-

RAT added to Society collections  
Maine Old Cemetery Records added to Society collections  
Sudie Vachon receives Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award  
Society membership tops 800

1989 – Microfilm cabinet donated to the Society in honor of E. Louise Lincoln by her family  
Seven Honorary members added to Society rolls  
Society sponsors Norumbega project with the Bethel Library  
Barbara Herrick Brown receives Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award  
Society publishes BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES

1990 – Persis Post receives Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award  
Grant received from William Bingham II Trust for Charity and the Bingham Betterment Fund to prepare a pictorial history of Bethel as part of Maine Street '90

1991 – Society membership tops 900  
Constitution and By-Laws Revised  
Second edition of Molly Ockett booklet published  
Helen Morton receives Noll Volunteer Service Award  
Publication of Randall H. Bennett's BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

1992 – First Hall Memorial Lecture held featuring Sarah McMahon of Bowdoin College  
Margaret Herrick Oakes Book Fund established with \$1000 bequest from her estate  
Friends and relatives of Agnes H. Haines establish fund in her memory to fund local history and genealogical books and related resources  
Society commended by the American Association for State and Local History for "an outstanding record of publication in local and regional history"  
Elizabeth Mason Carter receives Noll Volunteer Service Award

1993 – Kilgore family reunion held for first time at the Dr. Moses Mason House  
Society receives challenge grant to publish a book on the history of the Richardson Lakes region from the Bingham Betterment Fund  
Society membership exceeds 1000  
Annual Fund Campaign established by Board of Trustees  
Society sponsors Preservation Award for first time - honoring the restoration of the Civil War soldier's monument fence and the Middle Intervale Meeting House  
First Fourth of July brass band concert and community picnic held on the grounds of the Dr. Moses Mason House  
Rosalind Rowe Chapman receives Noll Volunteer Service Award  
New walking and driving tour brochures published

1994 – Three honorary members added to the Society rolls by the Board of Trustees: Oliver Anderson, Rosalind Chapman, and Rodney Howe  
Society trustees approve the concept of another museum building on the grounds of the Dr. Moses Mason House for exhibition, research, and storage of collections



## HISTORY OF THE BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

by Arlene G. and Donald S. Brown

*(continued from the last issue)*

In the fall of 1944, Rev. William Penner became the minister. He was a congregationalist minister who had been preaching at the Congregational Church at Rumford Point, and also at the Methodist Church at Rumford Center. Rev. Penner with wife, Sara, daughters, Amy and Gertrude and son Billy moved into the parsonage. The girls attended Gould and Billy was in elementary school.

Rev. Penner would hold early services in the Rumford churches before having the 11 o'clock service here. Evans Wilson assisted him. Rev. Penner was well-liked by the towns-people as well as in his own church. The M. Y. F. was active. The Eleanor Gordon Guild sponsored a Minstrel Show in 1949.

There was no pastor available when Rev. Penner left to go to Barnet, VT, so Evans Wilson, Forest Stowell and Rev. Ernest Smith, a retired minister, supplied for the winter.

Rev. David Hickland and his wife came in 1950 and served until 1953. During these years the vestry was redecorated with the walls of the vestry and upper hall covered part way with knotty pine paneling. Also, the foundation was repaired and necessary shingling done. The parsonage was painted, insulated, and storm windows installed.

When Rev. Hickland resigned in 1953, the church was supplied by several ministers until Rev. Robert Carter, a student minister, came and preached his first sermon on Easter Sunday, 1953. He was attending Theology School in Boston, coming to Bethel Friday night and returning to Boston Monday night. Furnishings for the parsonage such as living room and dining room furniture and an electric range were supplied by the church since the Carters had none of their own. There was a large increase in church attendance and other activities at this time. Rev. Carter was ordained in May 1955.

In 1955, a 24' x 35' annex was built on the back of the church to be used for Sunday school, nursery and recreational activities. Materials were donated by Leslie Davis. Labor was donated by the crews of Richard Davis, Hanover Dowel Company, and men of the church.

In the spring of 1955, the W. S. C. S., at the suggestion of Elsie Davis, decided to try a Gift Shop on Friday afternoons from the first of June until September. "The Friday Gift Shop" has been a successful project for nearly forty years.

In the fall of 1955, a new woodburning furnace was installed in the church at a cost of \$1100.

Rev. Dwight McMahon was minister of the church from 1956 to 1958.

In July 1956, Vacation Bible School had an attendance of 100 children. In the fall of the same year a passage was built between the church and the annex, and lights installed in the annex.

In 1956, the church lost its faithful Lay Leader, Evans Wilson, when he went to preach at Madison and North Anson.

In 1958, Rev. Richard Hamilton, a Boston University School of Theology student, came here, commuting to Boston each week. He and his wife, Arlene, served the parish very successfully until called to South Portland in 1963.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As we celebrate twenty years of operations in the Dr. Moses Mason House, it is natural for Society members to reflect on the many accomplishments and activities that have been achieved and conducted over a generation. Programs, publications and acquisitions have continued to entertain, educate and inform area residents about their local history. A chronology of the highlights of the Bethel Historical Society is included in this publication.

The Society's need for additional storage exhibition, and research space has become an important concern. If we are to continue to grow and prosper we must face this challenge. To meet these needs we will again be calling on the energies of our devoted volunteers and the support of our membership.

The next twenty years will see the Society enter a new phase of growth and development. We look forward to this challenge and feel confident that with help from our members and friends, we will be able to meet and overcome any obstacles we may face.

Charles F. Raymond

In 1958, the Methodist and Congregational Churches joined in sponsoring a Vacation Bible School for two weeks in July. Oil-fired baseboard heat was put in the parsonage that year.

A Memorial Fund was established in 1958. Using money from that fund a tape recorder and public address system were installed and chimes were played from the church tower Sunday mornings. In the summer of this year, the W. S. C. S. gave candle holders and a cross for the Worship Center which was put in the church in 1957 in memory of Mary Lapham.

In June 1960, The Eleanor Gordon Guild gave a reception for ten graduating seniors.

On Mollycckett Day in 1960 the W. S. C. S. had a candy booth and the Eleanor Gordon Guild had a "Fish Pond" and ice cream stand. During the fall and winter of this year, the Men's Brotherhood redecorated the kitchen, dining room, furnace room and vestry. A quiet time prayer vigil was held at the church on December 31, 1960, from 3 to 4 P.M.

During the years of Rev. Hamilton's tenure the junior and senior choirs were directed by Mrs. Hamilton, an accomplished singer, and the junior and senior M. Y. F. groups were very active as was the Couples' Club which sponsored a Variety Show in 1961. The proceeds from this show were used to buy a lighted church sign.

In 1963, a new front entrance door was given to the church in memory of Dr. Sherman S. Greenleaf.

From 1963 to 1965 Rev. Donald Hess served the church with wife, June, and two children. In March of 1965 he went to Selma, Alabama, to participate in a Civil Rights march.

In the mid 1960s, Sunday School was held summer and winter with an average attendance of 67. Children from the church attended Methodist Camp at Winthrop each summer. Nesta Littlefield was organist and choir director, and Virginia Walker directed the junior choir.

*(continued on page 4)*

## SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50  
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 ea.

Moses Mason House Bethel Railroad Station  
Summer House Bethel Covered Bridge

### Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢  
"The Family Farm" 75¢  
"Made in Bethel" 75¢  
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1  
"Molly Ockett" \$2

### Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2  
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2  
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1  
1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$7.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50  
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

### Books

Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY \$5  
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY  
LAKES RAILROAD \$20  
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES \$9.50  
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE  
MAYFLOWER \$15.95  
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL  
PAINTING 1700-1850 \$9.95  
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK \$5  
W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK,  
MAINE \$19.95  
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE &  
PERCEPTIONS \$9.95  
Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$29.95  
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4  
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50  
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC \$29.95  
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK  
HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS  
OF NEW ENGLAND Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35  
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED  
HISTORY \$39.95  
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$48  
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER \$5  
A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND  
HIS PORTRAITS \$25  
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5  
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50  
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18  
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL,  
1768-1890 \$45  
F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE  
MOUNTAINS \$20  
N.T. True, HISTORY OF BETHEL \$21

### T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7  
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6  
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7  
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,  
Moses Mason House 10¢ ea.

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(Methodist Church, continued from page 3)

From 1965 to 1969, Rev. George Stebbins, wife, Jackie, and four children were here. He was the son of a missionary and had spent his early years in Indo-China. He instigated many improvements and repairs.

Rev. Fred Bailey (wife, Ann-Louise, and daughters, Lynette and Heather) was pastor from 1969 to 1971.

In 1972 and 1973, Rev. James Nason served the parish.

The 1973 Proposed Budget listed the pastor's salary as \$4600.

From 1974 to 1979, Rev. Ronald McKinstry served the church and while here introduced and suggested many changes. He was ordained in June 1977.

In January 1978, the W. S. C. S. became the U. M. W. (United Methodist Women).

From 1980 to 1983, Rev. Millett Cummings, a retired minister from Norway, Maine, served as pastor three days a week. During this time the emergency exit in the sanctuary was insulated and winterized and a sump pump was installed in the furnace room.

In January 1980, Randy Chretien was sponsored and accepted as a candidate at Bangor Seminary. He is now the pastor of two churches in the Brewer, Maine area.

In 1980-81-82, during January and February and summer vacations, the Methodists and Congregationalists held Union Services, alternating churches.

In the early 1980s, Phyllis Dock conducted several workshops on "You, Your Church, and Your Community."

Accomplishments of the church in the early 1980s would include: insulation and storm windows for the dining room; a telephone in the kitchen; the installation of a new oil furnace; ceiling fans in the sanctuary; choir loft redecoration in memory of Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Bean; the Blue Room connecting the church and annex refinished in memory of Earl Davis; new American and Christian flags dedicated in memory of Sidney Dyke; the memorial windows in the sanctuary insulated on the outside with plexiglass; a Senior Citizen Meal Site established at the church.

Rev. Guy Downing was pastor of the church from 1983 to 1986. A chair lift for the handicapped was installed in the stairway in 1985. Edna York was choir director at this time and the organist was Susan Glines.

In 1986, Rev. Lisa Vonderhyde was assigned to this church and served until the spring of 1993. Her goals of having an active Youth Group, a Vacation Bible School, and Lay Leaders assisting in the Worship Services were realized. Rev. Vonderhyde was ordained a Deacon in 1987 and an Elder in 1989.

In September of 1990, Bishop Skeete conducted a worship service here.

During the town's reconstruction work on Main Street in the early 1990s, a new water pipe was laid from the church to the Main Street main.

As a result of very successful suppers provided by an ambitious committee led by Hope Tibbetts and Muriel Butters in the early 1990s, the following purchases and improvements have been made. A new refrigerator and cooking utensils have been purchased and new cupboards installed. Linoleum has been laid on the kitchen floor. The cement floor in the dining room has been smoothed, and carpet laid there as well as in the hall and on the stairs.



In November 1992, the church purchased a Monitor heater for the annex from Brooks Bros. Inc. for \$1000.

At this writing, Burton Abbott is the oldest living member of this church, having joined on November 24, 1912.

To bring this history right up to date - the Bethel United Methodist Church is welcoming a new minister, Rev. Henry S. Nickerson, who with two of his four children recently moved into the newly redecorated parsonage on Mason Street.

So, like a great many churches, the Bethel United Methodist Church, despite its "ups" and "downs" has always had a faithful and dedicated group which has kept the church going all these years - and it's still going strong!

## BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP LIST (as of May 1, 1994)

### Honorary

Olive Anderson, Newry; Barbara H. Brown, Bethel; Julia Brown, Bethel; Maxine Brown, Oxford; Norris Brown, Bethel; Elizabeth Mason Carter, West Bethel; Rosalind R. Chapman, Bethel; Floribel Haines, Bethel; Rodney Howe, Bethel; E. Louise Lincoln, Bethel; Frederick McMillin, Bethel; Helen Morton, Bethel; Persis Post, Bethel; Marguerite Quinn, Norway; Randal Stevens, Bethel; Sarah Stevens, Bethel; Mildred C. Thomas, Bethel; Edmond J. Vachon, Bethel; Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Edna B. York, Bethel

### Life

Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Avery Angevine, Bethel; Ernest Angevine, Bethel; Mary Angevine, Bethel; Roland E. Annis, Jr., Bethel; Laurel Atkinson, Norway; Charles Austin, Orlando, FL; John Balentine, Somersworth, NH; Jean Barker, Delray Beach, FL; Alvin L. Barth, Bethel; N. T. Bartholomaei, LaGrangeville, NY; Dorothy Bartlett, Bethel; Keith Bartlett, Bethel; Suzanne Bartlett, Bethel; William P. Bartlett, Dover-Foxcroft; Kathleen Bean, Bryant Pond; Randall Bennett, Bethel; Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Francis Berry, Bethel; Mary Lou Berry, Bethel; Tamara Mills Billings, Bryant Pond; Jeanne Bletzer, Woodstock, VT; Garret Bonnema, Bethel; Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Florine E. Bowden, Bethel; Dorothy F. Brinck, South Paris; Carolyn Brooks, Bethel; Dale S. Brouse, Frazier Park, CA; Arlene Brown, Bethel; Arnol K. Brown, Bethel; Barbara D. Brown, Bethel; Barbara H. Brown, Bethel; Donald Brown, Bethel; John K. Brown, Bethel; Julia B. Brown, Bethel; Leland Brown, Bethel; Marie Brown, Bethel; Norris Brown, Bethel; Robert Brown, Hanover; Lois Burgess, Bethel; Sumner Burgess, Bethel; Beatrice Burris, Bethel; Ralph Burris, Bethel; Catherine Lyon Bush, Belmont, MA; Richard D. Bush, Belmont, MA; Donald W. Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Mary Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; Ina Carey, Framingham, MA; Ann B. Carlson, Friendship; Jane Carlson, Bethel; Judith A. Carroll, Gorham, NH; Lee F. Carroll, Gorham, NH; Earlene Chadbourne, North Saco; Philip Chadbourne, Bethel; Theodore S. Chadbourne, North Saco; Mary Champe, Rumford Center; Lynda H. Chandler, Bethel; Stephen C.



*Shireen Vincent in the Society's Eva Bean Research Room.*

## MEMBER PROFILE SHIREEN VINCENT

Born 7 February 1938 in Boston, MA, the daughter of Chester H. and Marion W. Sneider, Shireen Vincent graduated from Cambridge Latin School in 1955, the University of Maine in 1959, Stephen F. Austin State University (M.A. in history) in 1977. She married Jerry Vincent in 1959 and moved to Texas in 1967 with her husband and three sons. In Texas she was deputy director of a community action agency, serving a six county region of East Texas and was a board member of RSVP, the East Texas Private Industry Council and the East Texas Area Agency on Aging.

In 1992, she and her husband returned to New England, settling in West Bethel. Here she serves on the Public Relations Committee of the Mahoosuc Arts Council, and the Education Committee of the Bethel Area Health Center. She has been secretary of the Bethel Historical Society and clerk of the Board of Trustees since 1993.

In 1992, she began volunteering on a regular basis in the Society office and research room where she assists with a wide variety of projects. Her hobbies include cross country skiing, gardening, camping, and sewing.

Chandler, Bethel; Amy Chapman, Locke Mills; Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody, MA; Ethel L. Chapman, Bethel; Donald Christie, Gray; Dorothy Christie, Gray; Lt. Col. Norman G. Clanton (Ret), Bethel; Sylvia Clanton, Bethel; Edith Robertson Clemens, Pahokee, FL; Fillmore Clough, Bethel; Shirley Clough, Bethel; Isabel T. Coburn, New Harbor; Howard Cole, Bethel; Virginia Cole, Bethel; Robert B. Congdon, Isleboro; Bruce Connor, Chelmsford, MA; Gayle Connor, Chelmsford, MA; Eva N. Conroy, Auburn; Rupert D. Conroy, Auburn; John W. Conzelman, Palm Springs, CA; Inez C. Conzelman, Palm Springs, CA; Margaret Cousins, Bethel; William Cousins, Bethel; Cynthia A. Cox, Perth, Scotland; Robert A. Crane, Norway; Suzanne P. Crane, Norway; Madeleine Hall Dampier, Gainesville, FL; Amy Davis, Bethel; Pauline P. Davis, Bethel; Rita Davis, Bethel; Robert L. Davis, Bethel; Helena Decker, Oxford; Patricia C. Dooen, Bethel; Sharon Dooley, Concord, CA; Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Dana C. Douglass, Jr., Bethel; Grace Douglass, Bethel; Richard Douglass, Bethel; Francis Lane Dunn, Round Pond; Aline Dupont, Gray; Hugh S. Durgin, N. Waterford; Mariann Mills Durgin, North Waterford; Kathryn Eames, Cape Elizabeth;

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*New Life and honorary members from left to right (front row) are Olive Anderson (honorary), Suzanne Bartlett (life), Rosalind Rowe Chapman (honorary), Back row, Rodney K. Howe (honorary, Keith Bartlett (life), Avery Angevine (life).*

## SOCIETY NAMES THREE HONORARY MEMBERS

Three longtime, very active members were honored at the January monthly meeting by being presented Honorary Membership certificates by Society president Charles Raymond. Honorary Membership is the Society's highest membership honor and is reserved for those members past seventy five who have accumulated an outstanding record of volunteer service to the organization. Olive Anderson was cited for her role as a guide in the museum for many years, as a member of the Special Projects Committee, and a member of the Board of Trustees. She has also been a frequent contributor to the Society's Annual Fund campaigns. Rosalind Chapman's record of service goes back to the Society's founding in 1966. A charter member, she has been a guide in the museum since it opened in 1974 and served on a number of committees. Currently she is a veteran member of the Museum Committee and is head of the Publications Committee. She has presented several programs at Society meetings, including histories of Main, Church, and Park streets. She has been a very knowledgeable contestant on "So You Think You Know Bethel," and a trustee of the Society. In 1993, she was honored with the Marjorie MacArthur Noll Volunteer Service Award. Rodney Howe has been active in the Society for twenty years, helping in various capacities, including sawing up trees which have fallen on the property, fixing leaky toilets, thawing pipes, putting up and taking down equipment at various Society events, and donating wood to keep the fireplaces blazing at Society meetings. His most noticeable contribution was the construction with his son of the stone wall along the north side of the historical society property.

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*Society life member Stephen T. Seams (standing) presents a genealogical seminar, sponsored by the Society on April 30. Among the topics covered were the use of deed and probate records, efficient record-keeping methods, and standards in compiling genealogies for publications.*

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#### NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Bradley and Judy Barker, Bethel  
Dr. Robert and Allidah Iles, Andover  
Virginia Merrill, Solon  
Douglas M. Swett, Center Conway, NH

#### THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD COUNTY ADVERTISER, 7 May 1886, compiled by Judge C. F. Whitman of Norway.

The country over which the union troops passed was strewn with blankets, coats, haversacks, and everything else nearly except guns. The soldiers of the Fifth Maine were fortunate in their run to move through a wooded country. They finally passed out of the woods and into open plains. The enemy was posted in a piece of wood in their immediate front. Here they halted and were formed in line of battle. About a third of the men had stood the run. As they went to the front the famous Ellsworth Zouaves passed them on their way to the rear. There were about thirty men in the Bethel Company. Not a rebel was in sight, but the shot and shell were passing through the air over their heads. The tide of the battle had already turned when they arrived, and they had scarcely fired two or three rounds before the order to fall back was given. They camped at Centerville that night, during which time they had orders to fall back to Alexandria. They got breakfast at Fairfax Court house and continued on their march through a rain storm during the day to the vicinity of Washington. John Shackley of Capt. Edwards' Company was wounded in the heel. He carried the ball to Alexandria before it was extracted. Levi W. Towle was reported as missing, but as he was never heard of afterward it is fair to presume that he was killed. W. B. Robinson and Charlie Freeman were captured and confined in the famous Libby Prison. Among the laughable things told of some of the Union soldiers on the retreat from Bull Run is an incident connected with a Maine Soldier, who said he got orders to fall back, and as he had received none to stop he had fallen back to Maine.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*

#### REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

*(continued from the last issue)*

by Leslie E. Davis

I believe that it was about the year 1935 that Lilla Coleman died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the Joe Chapman house in Grafton where she had kept house for Joe Chapman and Arthur Farrar for so many years.

After her death, Joe got along alone for a while, then during the first summer after her death, Joe got Hugh Murray of Portland to come and stay with him. Murray was partially crippled with lameness or partial paralysis of his legs and had to use two canes to get around but he was able to manage the house for himself and Joe for a year or so.

I think that it was during the summer of 1937 that Murray had to go back to Portland with his daughter as he got unable to get around by himself. Not long after he left, Joe had a sore break out near one of his armpits which Dr. Tibbetts, who treated him, believed to be a cancer. I carried Joe to Lewiston from Grafton about twice a week for a while so that he could be given X-Ray treatment for it, and later, since there seemed to be no one to look after him I had him come out to Bethel to stay with us so that he could get the care he needed. He stayed with us until he died that same year. It was a deep internal chest cancer that finally destroyed an artery from which he bled to death. He was buried in Grafton.

*(to be continued in the next issue)*

#### SOCIETY LAUNCHES

#### 1994 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Howard W. Cole, chairman of the Society's 1994 Annual Fund Campaign, announces that he and committee, Barbara D. Brown, John B. Head, Alden T. Kennett, and E. Louise Lincoln, are asking all members and friends of the Society to contribute to the 1994 drive. Each year the committee solicits tax-deductible contributions from more than 1200 members and friends of the Society to go "the extra mile" in assisting the Society to carry on its wide range of programs and projects in local and regional history.

The Society serves several thousand members and visitors each year with museum tours, research assistance, meetings, workshops, lectures, exhibits, special events, school programs, and publications. It also maintains and operates its headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House, built in 1813. To do all these things and more, a strong financial base is necessary. The Annual Fund helps insure all of these things happen and that the Society will continue to grow and develop in the future.

Those wishing to make contributions in honor of/in memory of an individual or individuals should send them to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217-0012.



## BOOK REVIEW

*Marriage Returns of Oxford County, Maine, Prior to 1892.* Edited by Rev. Donald L. McAllister and Lucille E. Naas. Camden, Me.: Picton Press, 1993. Maine Genealogical Society Special Publication No. 16. vi & 345 pp., index. \$39.50.

The Maine Genealogical Society, in cooperation with Picton Press of Camden, Maine, initiated a series of "special publications" several years ago in an effort to make important collections of previously unpublished materials available to family historians. One of the more noteworthy volumes to appear recently, and one which holds particular interest for those tracing western Maine families, is *Marriage Returns of Oxford County, Maine, Prior to 1892*, transcribed by Rev. Don McAllister and Lucille Naas, both residents of Norway, Maine. This well-arranged book is sure to become a standard source for genealogical research in the future.

A three-page introduction by the publisher sets the scene for the extensive marriage records which take up most of the book (there are over one hundred pages devoted to the very useful "every name index"). Important for an understanding of Maine county marriage records in general, this introduction explains in detail why Oxford County's marriage returns exist only for the years 1828 to 1891. Here we also learn that, though for many years town clerks in Maine were required to send records of marriage to the clerk of the Judicial Court of their respective county, there were occasions when they failed to do so. The lack of an individual marriage return at the county level may indicate that the town clerk omitted a marriage from the list sent, that a list for a specific year was not sent at all, or that the marriage occurred outside the county. Of course, there were numerous occasions when marriages were not reported to the town clerks by the ministers or Justice of the Peace. For example, in Bethel, certain marriages per-

(continued on back page)

## EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue celebrates twenty years of solid growth since the Society moved into the Dr. Moses Mason House in May 1974. What an active period it was between the time I came aboard in May and our July 10th dedication. I well remember the 12-14 hour days, seven days a week as we succeeded in setting up a working museum and operating historical society in a few weeks. Many volunteers made that possible and quite a few are still with us today.

The chronology published in this issue only includes some of the highlights. Each year has been a real adventure and a challenge. There have been many successes too numerous to mention, all made possible by dedicated members and volunteers. This issue honors all who have made the Society such a success.

SRH

## IN MEMORIAM

Died January 11, 1994, Shirley Hodsdon, senior member since 1990

Died January 28, 1994, Anthony L. Pugliese, life member since 1981

Died February 13, 1994, Ruby Mott, sustaining member since 1986

Died February 23, 1994, Ferroll P. Witter, senior member since 1993

Died March 22, 1994, Richard Davis, life member since 1992

Died May 15, 1994, Gerald Harrington, contributing member since 1990

### Join the Bethel Historical Society, Western Maine's historical research center.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

1. free admission to the museum
2. special discounts in the museum store
3. preferred rate for meeting room rental
4. special library and archival privileges

5. quarterly publication, *The Bethel Courier*
6. reduced course fees
7. voting rights in the Society
8. special invitations to Society events

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formed by the Rev. David Garland are known only through his personal record book (in the Society's collections); surprisingly, there are Bethel marriages in this Oxford County volume that do not appear in the "official" vital records for the town.

Rev. McAllister, a Society member, and Lucille Naas received permission several years ago from the Oxford County Commissioners to transcribe and publish the county's marriage returns, which are recorded in three volumes now kept in the Commissioners' office. As published, the records include reference to original headings and page numbers, the date of marriage, the names of the husband and wife, and the name of the person performing or recording the union. The inclusion of records for towns once in Oxford County, but later set off to Franklin and Androscoggin counties, makes this one-volume source particularly valuable. Though it cannot be considered a comprehensive listing of marriages for Oxford County (none exists), this book will soon prove to be indispensable.

Randall H. Bennett  
Curator of Collections

Dr. Moses Mason House  
Hours, Monday - Friday, 10 AM - 4 PM  
and by appointment

July and August  
Hours, Tuesday - Sunday 1 - 4 PM  
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